

D-80

Bucktown Village Store, (Bucktown Store)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-22-2016

D-80
Bucktown Store
Bucktown
c. 1860
Private

The Bucktown Store is a very rare survivor of a rural store building dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Recently restored, the main store interior has survived essentially unchanged with the walls and ceiling covered with narrow board strips painted blue, and the long counters are faced with paneled fronts trimmed with bold ogee moldings. A rear, unfinished storage room has exposed framing with circular sawn kerf marks that comfortably date the building around 1860-70. A store at this crossroads—here or across the road—is believed to be the site where Araminta Ross (Harriet Tubman, 1822-1913) was struck accidentally on the head with a two-pound iron weight as a bystander during an altercation with a local overseer and another slave.

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth century history of the Bucktown crossroads as a location for a store is clouded by inexact or vague descriptions in the Dorchester County land records. The crossroads is identified by name as early as 1794 when Dennis Griffith delineated his map of the State of Maryland. The earliest reference to the place is found in an 1802 land transfer between Samuel Hooper and John Scott for a one-acre parcel of a tract called "Meadow Ground on the main road leading through Bucktown and down Transquaking." Many of the early citations refer the crossroads as "Buck Town."

Whether a previous store stood exactly on this site can not be determined through the existing historical record, but intersections such as these were likely places for the commercial improvements that defined many rural crossroads across the Eastern Shore

during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Single story frame stores, wheelwright or blacksmiths shops, taverns, or houses were among the typical structures built on small lots of land. Another tract on which Bucktown developed was "Ennalls Regulation" which surfaces in a transfer between Edward Brodess to William Scott in September 1802, and the same lot was sold to John Scott seven days later. Clearly small lots were being carved out larger tracts to develop the crossroads during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Most likely the extant Bucktown Store was erected during the ownership of John Bradshaw, who acquired the land on the east side of the crossroads from John Mills in 1853, and it remained in Bradshaw family ownership for the next ten years, passing to John Bradshaw's son, William Eugene Sulivane Bradshaw. In 1863, William E. S. Bradshaw negotiated the sale of the property through a trustee, Algernon Percy, and the details of the trusteeship were stated in the land record:

Witnesseth that whereas I am indebted unto sundry persons in several sums of money and being anxious to pay the whole of my debts have proposed and agreed to assign and convey all my real and personal estate to Algernon S. Percy...in trust and benefit of my creditors...And all my personal estate and effects of every description, in trust for the following purposes, that is to say that he the said Algernon Percy do and shall as soon as conveniently may be, make sale of said real estate in such manner and upon such terms as may be most expedient and collect all debts which may be due, or owing to me, and manage, control, and hire out my Negroes and in case the proceeds of the said real estate together with the debts due and owing to me as aforesaid should be insufficient for the payment of my debts, then and in that event (but not otherwise) that he should make sale of my Negroes to and in payment thereof...

Despite the urgency expressed in this trusteeship to sell the property expediently, the "house and lot and store house together with all the other improvements in said lot lying in Bucktown" were not transferred by Algernon Percy until August 1871 when the property was acquired by William George M. Corkran and John Winfield Scott Corkran

for \$1425, and the Corkrans sold the commercial property six days later to Thomas M. Meredith for \$2,000. The substantial transfer price surely included the relatively new store building, as well as the house next door and other improvements on the lot.

During the mid to late nineteenth century, Thomas M. Meredith (1822-1881) amassed a very large agricultural estate with land holdings totaling over 2,300 in the Bucktown Election District. As early as the 1860 U.S. Census, at age 38, he was listed with real estate and personal property valued at \$8,000. The store house, the adjacent dwelling, and other lot improvements remained in the Meredith family until 1892. The house and store passed through numerous hands during the early to mid twentieth century. In 1909 when Mary Elizabeth LeCompte, who had acquired the property in 1897, bequeathed it to her cousin, L. James Colston, it was at that time occupied by William T. Nabb. Fifteen years later, in 1924, when the property transferred by James Colston's estate executors, the store was operated by M. Bonaparte Corsey, and the house next door was occupied by Howard Asplen.

In more recent years the store has been adapted as a historic site marking the Bucktown crossroads and it has been used as a headquarters for a tourism based business of kayaking the Transquaking River and other waterways. The store was brought back to a stable and restored condition by the present owners, James W. and Susan E. Meredith after many years of neglect.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-80

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bucktown Store

other

2. Location

street and number Intersection of Greenbriar and Bucktown Roads not for publication

city, town Bucktown vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name James W. and Susan L. Meredith

street and number 4303 Bucktown Road telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 410 folio 103

city, town Cambridge tax map 63 tax parcel 21 tax ID number 13-001707

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

☐ agriculture ☐ landscape
☒ commerce/trade ☐ recreation/culture
☐ defense ☐ religion
☐ domestic ☐ social
☐ education ☐ transportation
☐ funerary ☐ work in progress
☐ government ☐ unknown
☐ health care ☐ vacant/not in use
☐ industry ☐ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-80

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Bucktown Store is a single-story, gable-front frame commercial structure that marks the intersection of Greenbrier, Bucktown, and Bepitch Ferry roads in the center of the Bucktown Election District in Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-room frame structure dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and is datable by the presence of circular saw kerf marks on the exposed floor joists in the unfinished rear storage room. Recently restored, the gable-front store is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. Typical of the estimated period of construction, the gable roof has extended eaves with returns on the front. The roof is sheathed with wood shingles. The interior has remained essentially unchanged since the late nineteenth century with beaded board walls and ceiling finishing the main storeroom. Store counters with paneled fronts incorporating ogee profile panel moldings are combined with built-in shelving.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bucktown Store is a third quarter of the nineteenth century (c. 1860-70) single-story, gable-front frame structure that stands at the intersection of Bucktown, Greenbrier, and Bepitch Ferry roads in central Dorchester County. The two-room structure faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east-west axis. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the rectangular frame structure is sheathed with plain weatherboards and is covered by a medium pitched wood shingle roof.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay façade defined by a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The first floor openings are sheltered by a shed roofed porch supported by square posts. The center door entrance is fitted with a pair of original double doors featuring glazed panels above the lock rail and raised panels with ogee Victorian moldings below the lock rail. The six-over-six sash windows to each side have a beaded edge backband trim. Piercing the gable end above the porch roof is a single six-over-six sash window flanked by diagonal batten shutters. The edge of the wood shingle roof is finished with an extended eave and has returns as the base of the roof. The eave is trimmed with an ogee crown molding.

The north and south sides of the store are defined single six-over-six sash windows that light the main store room as well as board doors that open into the rear storage room. The edge of the roof on each side is finished with a boxed cornice. The rear wall is marked by a single six-over-six sash window on the first floor and within the loft area. The wall surface at the edge of the roof is finished flush end and bargeboard.

The store interior has survived intact since the late nineteenth century with narrow dimensioned board walls and ceiling painted a deep blue. Lining the north and south walls are built-in shelves. Long counters with paneled fronts enriched with ogee moldings remain as well. The rear storage room is unfinished and is defined by exposed framing. The floor joists spanning the room have circular saw kerf marks.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-80

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Bucktown store is a very rare survivor of a rural store building dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Recently restored, the main store interior has survived essentially unchanged with the walls covered with narrow board strips, and counters faced with paneled fronts trimmed with bold ogee moldings. A rear, unfinished storage room has exposed framing with circular sawn kerf marks that comfortably date the building around 1860-70. A store at this crossroads is believed to be the site where Araminta Ross (Harriett Tubman, 1822-1913) was struck accidentally on the head with a two-pound iron weight during an altercation with a local overseer and another slave.¹

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The early nineteenth century land history of this property as a location for a store is clouded by inexact or vague descriptions in the Dorchester County records. Whether a previous store stood exactly on this site can not be determined through the existing historical record, but intersections were likely places for the small commercial improvements that defined rural crossroads on the Eastern Shore during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Single story frame stores, wheelwright or blacksmith shops were among the typical structures erected at key crossroads. A small parcel of land on the east side of the main county road was owned by Benjamin Keene and later John Mills during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Both prominent land owners, Keene or Mills, could easily have financed the construction of a store at the Bucktown intersection, which in the early citations for property it was

¹ Kate Clifford Larson, *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of An American Hero*. New York: One World Ballantine Books, p. 42.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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spelled "Buck Town."² Another store was located on the southwest corner of the intersection during the mid to late nineteenth century.³

The construction features of this extant building date it to the third quarter of the nineteenth century and probably around 1860-70. The owner at that time was John Bradshaw, who purchased the Bucktown lot among other tracts from John Mills in August 1853.⁴ The Bucktown property passed to William Eugene Sulivane Bradshaw, John's son, who in 1863 negotiated the sale of the property through a trustee, Algernon Percy.⁵ The details of the trusteeship were stated in the land records:

Witnesseth that whereas I am indebted unto sundry persons in several sums of money and being anxious to pay the whole of my debts have proposed and agreed to assign and convey all my real and personal estate to Algernon S. Percy...in trust for the benefit of my creditors...And all my personal estate and effects of every description, in trust for the following purposes, that is to say that he the said Algernon Percy do and shall as soon as conveniently may be, make sale of said real estate in such manner and upon such terms as may be most expedient and collect all debts which may be due, or owing to me, and manage, control and hire out my Negroes and in case the proceeds of the said real estate together with the debts due and owing to me as aforesaid should be insufficient for the payment of my debts, then and in that event (but not otherwise) that he should make sale of my Negroes to and in the payment thereof...

The sale of the Bucktown store was not particularly expedient; it was not transferred out of the Bradshaw ownership until 1871 when it was purchased by William George and John Winfield Scott Corkran,⁶ who sold it six days later to Thomas M. Meredith for \$2,000.⁷ The substantial transfer price most likely included the relatively new store building, as well as a house and other improvements.

² Dorchester County Land Record, ER 14/223-25, 6 September 1834, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland. The origin for the name Bucktown seems to stem from the name of a land tract in the vicinity known as "Buckfields." (See Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 2/347, 2 August 1853, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge; John Mills to John Bradshaw, "All those tracts or land or parcels of land called Buckfield, Containing six acres and three quarters of an acre more or less.")

³ Bucktown Election District map, 1877, *Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas*, Philadelphia, Pa. Reprint Ed. John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee (1976), p. 83.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 2/347, 2 August 1853, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 5/487, 24 December 1863, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 8/248, 10 August 1871, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

⁷ Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 8/250, 16 August 1871, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland. "...all that lot or parcel of land with a dwelling house, store house and other improvements upon it situated in the town of Bucktown."

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During the mid to late nineteenth, Thomas M. Meredith (1822-1881) amassed a very large agricultural estate with land holdings totaling over 2,300 acres.⁸ As early as the 1860 U. S. Census, at age 38, he was listed with real estate and personal property of \$8,000.⁹ The store house, adjacent dwelling and other improvements remained in Meredith family ownership until 1892.¹⁰ The house and store passed through numerous hands during the twentieth century. In 1909, when Mary Elizabeth LeCompte, who had acquired the property in 1897,¹¹ bequeathed the Bucktown house and store to her cousin, L. James Colston, it was at that time occupied by William T. Nabb.¹² Fifteen years later, in 1924, when the property was transferred by James Colston's estate executors, the store was operated by M. Bonaparte Corsey and the house was occupied by Howard Asplen.¹³

In more recent years the store has been adapted as a historic site marking the Bucktown crossroads and used as a headquarters for a tourism based business of kayaking the Transquaking River. The store was brought back to a stable condition by the present owners, James W. and Susan E. Meredith, after years of neglect had left it in disrepair.

⁸ Graham, *The 1877 Atlases*, Patron List for the Bucktown District, p. 86.

⁹ Eighth Census of the United States (1860), Dorchester County Population Schedule, p. 387.

¹⁰ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 16/493, 21 May 1892, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

¹¹ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 21/516, 13 May 1897, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

¹² Dorchester County Will Book, JWF 3/255, Written 4 February 1909, Proved 17 July 1909, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

¹³ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 14/674, 17 June 1924, Dorchester County Land Record, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

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Bucktown Store
Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 63, Parcel 21

MLB 410/103

Gary Heet and Marilyn Heet

to

9.7.1999

James W. Meredith and Susan E. Meredith

Laid down as land of Ralph C. Lewis, plat recorded March 1967,
January 1, 1974, PLC 14/73

289/649

Merlyn E. Freer and Lucille H. Freer

to

6.14.1993

Gary Heet and Marilyn Heet

266/179

Mildred H. Lewis

to

2.4.1991

Gary Heet and Marilyn Heet ½ interest
Merlyn E. Freer and Lucille H. Freer ½ interest

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PLC 192/26

Ralph C. Lewis, Jr. and Jennifer

to

10.24.1975

Ralph C. Lewis and Mildred H. Lewis

PLC 183/284

Ralph C. Lewis, et ux.

to

1.25.1974

Ralph C. Lewis Jr.

1.190 acres

PLC 143/311

Theodore C. Thein, et ux

to

7.16.1965

Ralph C. Lewis, et ux.

PLC 137/123

Myrtle E. Bramble, widow

to

2.18.1964

Theodore C. Thein

Lot No. 2

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PLC 117/498

Richard M. Matthews, trustee

to

1.27.1960

Myrtle E. Bramble and B. Harrison Bramble

Lot No. 2

JFD 14/674

Herbert C. Holt and Mary C. Jones, executors of L. James Colston, dc'd

to

6.17.1924

B. Harrison Bramble

"consisting of the store house property where M. Bonaparte Corsey now conducts the mercantile business, the dwelling house property where Howard Asplen now lives...."

Dorchester County
Will Book
JWF 3/255

Last Will and Testament of Mary Elizabeth LeCompte, of
Cambridge, Maryland

to, cousin

Written
2.4.1909
Proved
7.17.1909

L. James Colston

all my real estate at Bucktown consisting of store house, dwelling and Lot, said premises at present occupied by William T. Nabb and I also give him one thousand dollars in money...

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CL 21/516

James Higgins, Trustee

to

5.13.1897

Mary E. LeCompte

Sale of the real estate of Clarence M. Smith, conveyed to Clarence M Smith and his three sisters Annie E., Bell B. and Willie L. Smith by Edward LeCompte and Joseph M. Meredith, deceased, 5.21.1892, CL 16/493

CL 16/493

E. W. LeCompte and Joseph B. Meredith

to

5.21.1892

Clarence M. Smith

All the houses and improvements thereon, situated in the village of Bucktown...being the store, home lot, and premises usually known as the Bradshaw Property which was purchased by the said Thomas M. Meredith of William G. M. Corkran and others, 8.16.1871, FJH 8/250

FJH 8/250

William George M. Corkran, Susan E. Corkran, John Winfield Scott Corkran

to

8.16.1871

Thomas M. Meredith

\$2,000 all that lot or parcel of land with a dwelling house, store house, and other improvements upon it situated in the town of Bucktown in the County aforesaid and contained within the following metes and bounds...beginning at a Sassafras post standing

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on the East bank of a ditch in said town and at the head of a branch called "Hall's Branch" and directly at the point where the back fence of said lot intersects the fence enclosing the lawn attached to the present residence of the said William George M. Corkran....thence running with the middle of said ditch...to a bridge on the county road running through said town, thence up and binding with said road....to a bounded stone on the east side of County road at the end of the third course of the land described....

FJH 8/248

Algernon Percy, Trustee, for William Eugene Bradshaw

to

8.10.1871

William George M. Corkran
John Winfield Scott Corkran

\$1425.00 "the house and lot and store house together with all the other improvements in said lot lying on Bucktown...

Whereas by his deed dated the 24th day of December 1863, FJH 5/47

FJH 5/487

William Eugene Sulivane Bradshaw

to

12.24.1863

Algernon Percy, trustee

Witnesseth that whereas I am indebted unto sundry persons in several sums of money and being anxious to pay the whole of my debts have proposed and agreed to assign and convey all my real and personal estate to Algernon S. Percy of the County and state aforesaid, in trust for the benefit of my creditors....

All those lots, tracts, parts of tracts or parcels of land situated in the

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county aforesaid which were sold and conveyed to my father the late Joseph Bradshaw by John Mills, by deed dated 8.2.1853, FJH 2/347-48

And all my personal estate and effects of every description, in trust for the following purposes, that is to say that he the said Algernon Percy do and shall as soon as conveniently may be, make sale of said real estate in such manner and upon such terms as may be most expedient and collect all debts which may be due, or owing to me and manage, control, and hire out my Negroes and in case the proceeds of sale of the said real estate together with the debts due and owing to me as aforesaid should be insufficient for the payment of my debts, then and in that event (but not otherwise) that he should make sale of my Negroes to and in the payment thereof....

FJH 2/347

John Mills

to

8.2.1853

John Bradshaw

\$4,500...All that lot or ground lying and being in Dorchester County and on the east side of the road in Buck Town. Beginning at a post standing by the side of a ditch near the main road running...contain what it may with the improvements thereon, being the same land that the said John Mills purchased from Benjamin Keene & wife reference being had to said Deed recorded in Liber ER 14/223-25....All those tracts of land or parcels of land called "Buckfield," Containing six acres and three quarters of an acre more or less—"Trippe's Closure" Containing one hundred and thirty five acres, and "Stanfords Good Will" Containing fifty acres more or less luying and being in Dorchester County and near Black Water River and being the same lands which the said John Mills purchased from James A. Stewart & wife, reference being had to said deed recorded in Liber WP 5/116-17, Also all that lot called the "Hill" with the improvements thereon and situate in or near Buck Town, let the same contain what it may or be called...being the same lot of land that the

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said John Mills purchased from Benjamin Keene, reference in Liber

FJH 1/402-03, and also all the estate right , title and claim in trust and demand either in law or in equity of the said John Mills....

ER 14/223-25

Benjamin Keene and wife Jane

to

9.6.1834

John Mills

\$115.00 All that lot of ground lying on the East side of the road in Buck Town Beginning at a post standing by the side of the side of a ditch near the main road....

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Dorchester County Probate Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Larson, Kate Clifford, *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman-Portrait of An American Hero*. New York: One World Ballantine Books, 2004.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.190 acres

Acreage of historical setting 1 + acres

Quadrangle name Blackwater River, Md

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	7.24.2012
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Dennis Griffith, Map of the State of Maryland, 1794 [1795] Maryland State Law Library, MdHR 1213-356.

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BUCKTOWN STORE
BLACKSMITH, FLETCHER & FISH, ADVENTURE

D-90

Bucktown Store

Bucktown, Dorchester Co., MD.

Southwest Elevation

8/2012, Paul B. Tourant, PHOTO.

NE. / MD. Historical Trust

#1 of 1

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

EASEMENT

Property Name: Bucktown Village Store Inventory Number: D-80
Address: 4303 Bucktown Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Cambridge Zip Code: 21613 County: Dorchester
USGS Quadrangle(s): Blackwater River
Property Owner: James and Susan Meredith Tax Account ID Number: 001707
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 21 Tax Map Number: 63
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Stacey Streett and Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 6/17/2005
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description:

Please refer to MIHP Form D-80 for prior survey information.

The Bucktown Village Store (D-80) is a central landmark at the crossroads in Bucktown. It is located at 4303 Bucktown Road on the east side of the corner of Bestpitch Ferry Road and Bucktown Road. The rectangular-plan, one-story building faces west. It was constructed circa 1920, according to tax records. The exterior of the Bucktown Village Store has not been altered since the survey that was conducted in 1975, with the exception of store-front signage across the cornice of the porch, which is no longer extant. Brick piers once supported the building. However, at the time of the survey conducted in 2005, the building was elevated on metal girders for the reconstruction of the brick-pier foundation.

The symmetrical building is one-and one-half stories tall and three bays wide by two rooms deep. The façade is a gable-front configuration with the projection of a full-width, single-story, shed-roof porch, which dominates the façade. The porch is ground level and is supported by four, square, classical pillars. The main entrance consists of wood-panel double doors, with glass lights in the upper panels. An attic window with closed, batten shutters is located in the apex of the front gable. A two-by-four board has

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/11/05
Date

Elm
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/11/05
Date

200501970

been placed across the window to keep the shutters closed. The building is sided in clapboard. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, sash windows. Metal screens have been placed on the exterior of the windows flanking the entrance.

Composite shingles cover the gable and porch roofs. The boxed cornice has wide eaves, and gable returns further accentuate the cornice on the façade. A boxed cornice is located on the entry porch. The south slope of the roof is punctuated by a brick chimney stack, capped by brick corbelling.

The property surrounding the store contains several frame outbuildings. There are two, one-story, gable-front, frame outbuildings north of the store. Wood barrels are located on the west side of one of these outbuildings. Mr. Meredith explained that these outbuildings were moved from other properties in the vicinity to the property of the Bucktown Village Store. They were in danger of being razed in their original location, so Mr. Meredith salvaged them and rebuilt them near the store. They date from the first half of the nineteenth century; one of the outbuildings was moved from the Anthony Thompson Farm, which is the property where Harriet Tubman's father was enslaved (telephone correspondence with Mr. Meredith, April 2005). A historic marker was located alongside the road, at the north end of the entry porch, before renovation of the store commenced. However, due to recent construction activities, the marker has been removed from the premises. In addition, a sign for Civil War Trails is located north of the marker. A large, mature, deciduous tree is adjacent to the north elevation of Bucktown Village Store. A gravel driveway is parallel to the south elevation. The eastern portion of the property is bordered by a dirt road and a stand of mature, deciduous trees.

The interior the building was not accessible during the survey.

Significance

General Project Area Description

Bucktown, Maryland, is located in Dorchester County, approximately ten miles south of Cambridge. Bucktown is primarily an agricultural area that is adjacent to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The terrain is relatively flat with the large majority of land used for agricultural purposes. The project area directly abuts the Little Blackwater River on the west, and much of the terrain is marshland in this area. The project area has a low level of elevation, approximately 5 feet above sea level.

Primary crops grown in Bucktown include corn and soybeans. Large industrial poultry houses of recent dates of construction are also present on several farms. Portions of the project area adjacent to the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge have a substantial tree canopy flanking the roadways.

History of Bucktown

Bucktown was formed from the land holdings of Bartholomew Ennalls. A native of York County, Virginia, Ennalls owned thousands of acres of land in southern Maryland in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Virtually no scholarly information exists on the establishment or development of Bucktown. It is largely ignored in scholarly histories of Dorchester County, and few primary or secondary resources relating to the town are available. A detailed review of maps of Dorchester County indicates that the name Bucktown first appears on maps in the late eighteenth century.

It is described as "five miles from a railroad station. A fertile farming country surrounds it. . . . about forty people in ten or twelve dwellings measure the size of the quiet town where the ring of the hammer on the blacksmith's anvil is no more heard. No town growth."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

Tobacco was the primary crop cultivated in the area. It was exported to England for sale, and provided a certain degree of wealth to many of the tobacco plantation owners. After the onset of the Revolutionary War, when trade with England was suspended, corn, wheat, and rye plantings replaced tobacco as the most prominent agricultural crops. Livestock were also raised in larger numbers. The crops and animals were used for both home consumption and to supply the army. These crops remained the primary products planted until after the Civil War. After that time, grain crops became less common.

Bucktown is perhaps best known for its association with Harriet Tubman, a slave who was a critical figure in the Underground Railroad. Because Tubman was born into slavery, very little precise information about her early life is available. Consequently, much misinformation about Tubman has been disseminated throughout time. Reliable sources indicate that she was born circa 1820, possibly in or near Bucktown.

She spent her earliest years at the Brodess plantation, which was located just outside of Bucktown. Later, she moved with her owner to other locations within a ten-mile radius of Bucktown. Her family worshipped at Bazel's Chapel. The original building associated with Tubman's family burned and the present chapel was constructed circa 1911.

Tubman gained her freedom in 1849, when she escaped to Philadelphia. She eventually settled in Auburn, New York, where she established a home for elderly former slaves. Three buildings in Auburn with associations to Tubman have been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior. These include her own residence, the Harriet Tubman House, and the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged. The church where she worshiped in Auburn, Thompson AME Zion Church is also designated.

Historic Resources in Bucktown

Relatively few built resources are present within the Bucktown vicinity. This is due to the prevalence of large swaths of agricultural land in cultivation. The majority of buildings in Bucktown are residences. Almost all of the buildings more than 50 years of age are farmhouses from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Most of the residences retain their basic forms, which include I-houses and smaller cottages. Many of the residences have side or rear additions. Most have been re-sided in either aluminum siding or asbestos shingles. Replacement windows and enclosed porches are other common alterations. The conditions of the residences range from excellent to poor, with several near collapse.

Few historic agricultural buildings associated with the farmhouses remain (although several of the properties were inaccessible and only farmhouses were visible from the right-of-way). New agricultural buildings consist primarily of large-scale poultry houses sheathed in metal.

An abundance of houses dating from the late 1950s through the present are found in Bucktown. Most are modest, single-story houses with minimal architectural detail. These newer houses are located on small plots of land in linear patterns, unlike the houses of earlier eras, which were located on large plots of farmland.

Several modest frame chapels are located in the vicinity of Bucktown. They are associated with African-American congregations in the area.

The Bucktown Store is the sole resource associated with commerce in the area. As with other general stores in small towns, it likely served the town with basic supplies. However, Bucktown's proximity to Cambridge allowed for a reasonable commute into the larger city for commercial goods.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

The historic and cultural landscape within Bucktown conveys the historic agricultural use of the land. Although historic crops in Dorchester County included tobacco and grains and not the currently omnipresent soybeans, the land has remained cleared and used for agricultural purposes. Other components of the landscape are used as part of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and appear to be in their pristine natural condition. Substantial sections of the region, most notably in the area surrounding the wildlife refuge, are covered with thick stands of tall trees.

Determination of Eligibility

The property was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

According to local tradition, the Bucktown Village Store is the reputed site of the infamous head injury that Harriet Tubman sustained in her early youth, sometime during the 1830s (Clinton 2004: 21-22). However, the present store was not constructed at that time. It is possible that an earlier store—perhaps even in the same location—was the site of this confrontation. However, early maps of the area with sufficient detail do not exist, and this information cannot be verified.

The present store appears as the Bucktown P.O. and store on an 1877 map of Bucktown District (see Lake et al. map). Today, a kayaking and biking business is operated out of the store. The current owner, Mr. Meredith, indicated that the original store dated to 1830, but the current building was extensively renovated during the Civil War Period (1860-1880). He also mentioned that parts of the store building, such as some of the framing timber, are actually remnants from the original 1830 building. However, the reported 1830 date of the building could not be verified, and the building now resembles late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial building forms. Tax parcel information and deed research also indicates that the building dates from the late nineteenth century.

At this time, it is difficult to evaluate the eligibility of the Bucktown Village Store due to ongoing construction work. However, based on current information, the building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is eligible under Criterion A for its significance as the only remaining commercial building in the rural crossroads of Bucktown. While local tradition indicates an association with Harriet Tubman, the present store appears to be constructed after Tubman fled Bucktown. Until defensible research reveals a sure connection with Tubman (along with an earlier construction date), the property is not eligible under Criterion B. The Bucktown Village Store is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of a vernacular commercial building constructed in the late nineteenth century. It is the only extant historic commercial building in the vicinity, and it continues to convey its original purpose as a general store, which is an increasingly rare building type on the Eastern Shore. No information on the builder or architect was uncovered during research. While the building has changed since the previous survey because of the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

removal of decorative pendants and a portion of the cornice, these alterations do not affect the overall integrity of the building. The collection of salvaged buildings compromises the overall integrity of the parcel of land; however, their relatively small sizes do not detract from the dominant store building. The Bucktown Village Store retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, location, and feeling. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

Bibliography

Clinton, Catherine. Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom. Little, Brown and Company. Time Warner Book Group, New York, 2004.

Finding a Way to Freedom Driving Tour: The Underground Railroad in Dorchester and Caroline Counties in the 1850s. Brochure. Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, Cambridge, Maryland, with support from the National Park Service; Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network; Dorchester and Caroline Counties, MD; and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

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Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Bucktown and surrounding areas of southern Maryland.

Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Bucktown and surrounding areas of southern Maryland.

Meredith, Jay, Bucktown property owner. Telephone correspondence regarding Bucktown Village Store, Meredith House, Lewis House, and Brodess Plantation. April 2005.

Weeks, Christopher, ed. Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press and the Maryland Historical Trust. 1984.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

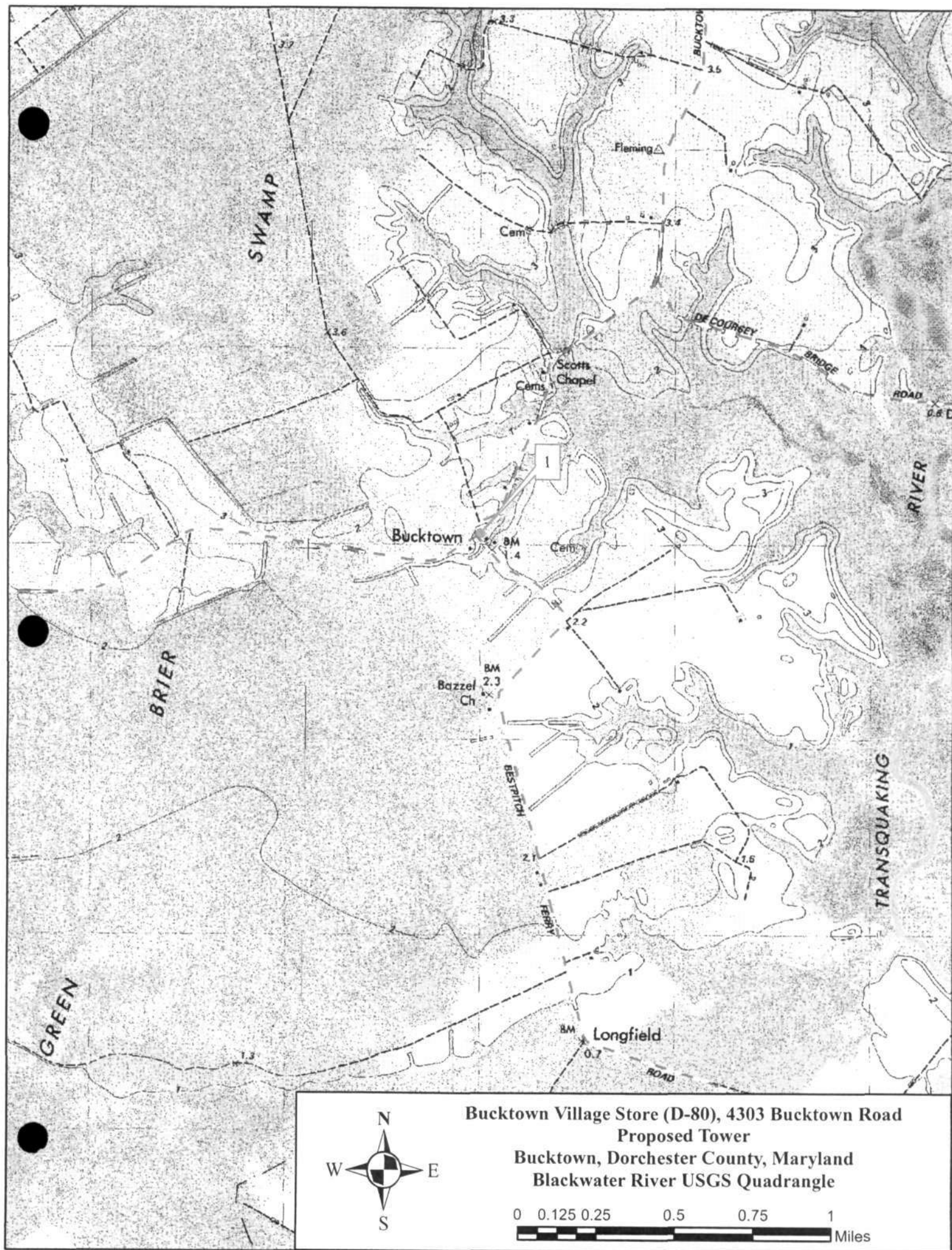
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date





D-80

Bucktown Village Store

Dorchester County MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD SHPO

View of facade and outbuildings on property.

1/3



D-80

Buckhorn Village Stone

Dorchester County, MD

S. Strcett

4/2005

MD STPD

South elevation

2/3



D-8C

Bucktown Village Store
Dorchester County, MD

S. Strcett

4/2005

MD State

North. Elevation.

3/3

EASEMENT

1066804511

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Bucktown Store				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Bucktown Road at Greenbriar Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Ralph C. Lewis Jr.				
STREET AND NUMBER: RFD 2				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 183/284				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bucktown Store is a small, one story frame structure, probably built during the third quarter of the 19th century. It's three bays across its gable facade and two bays deep. There is a porch across the facade. Its central entrance has double doors with glass upper panels which can be covered by removable panels when not in use. The windows have 6/6 sash and the one in the gable has diagonal batten shutters. Like many of the houses in the second half of the 19th century, there is a wide overhanging roof at the gables and cornice returns at the lower end of the barge boards.

The interior is a single room with shelves around the outer walls and a counter on three sides.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bucktown Store is a survival of a type building constructed in the second half of the nineteenth century of which few exist. It is an attractive landmark at Bucktown.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 13, Map 63, p. 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Nov., 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

21401

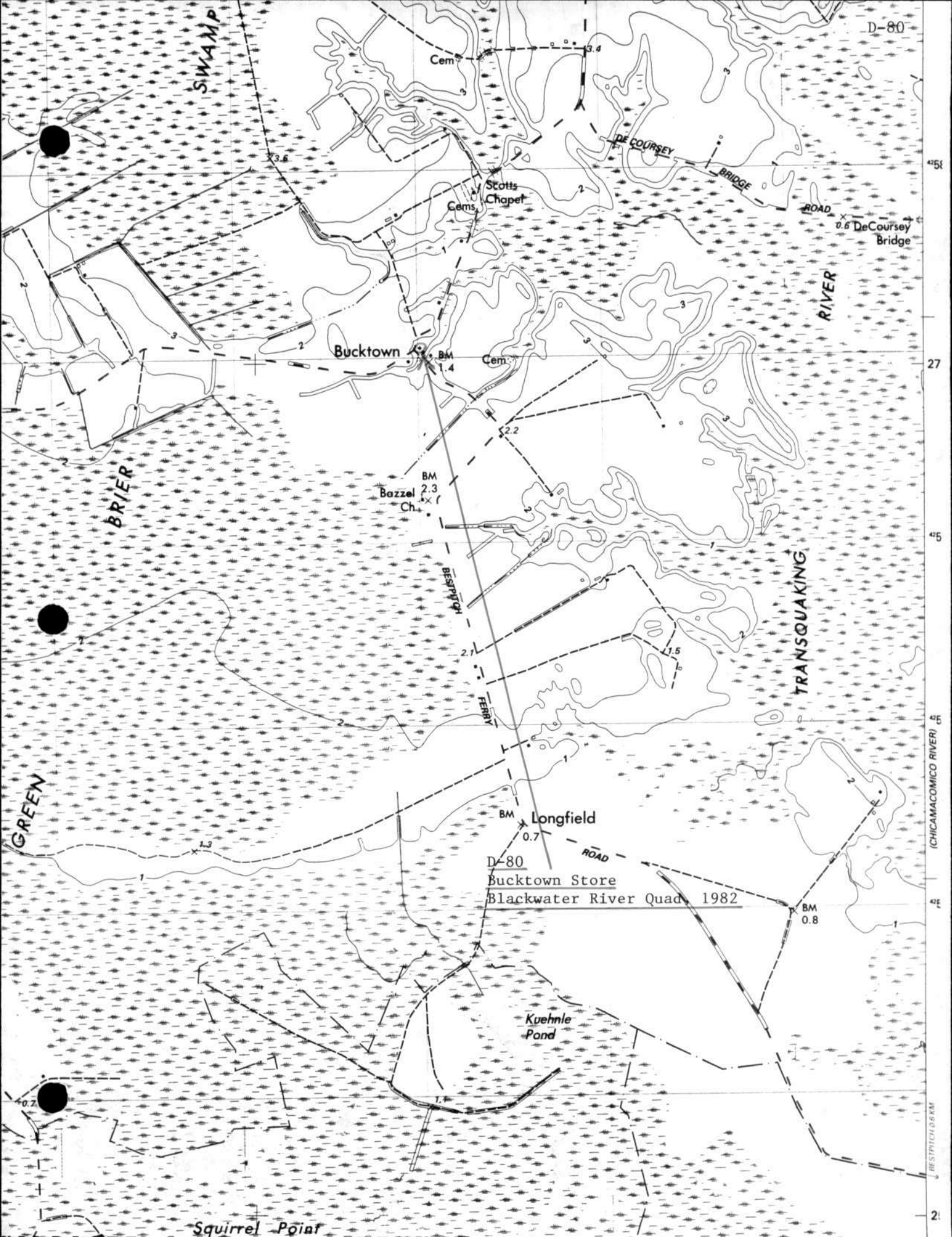
12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature



.13 X 1.68

75%

D-80



Bucktown Stone

D-80

W. Bourne Nov 1975